

HONOR FLIGHT OF EASTERN
OREGON

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 8, 2017

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the ten World War II veterans from Oregon who visited their memorial on the National Mall on Friday, September 8, 2017 through Honor Flight of Eastern Oregon. Every time I have the chance to meet one of these heroes from the "Greatest Generation," I am reminded of the poignant words of General Dwight D. Eisenhower. In a message to Allied troops just before D-Day, he said, "The eyes of the world are upon you. The hopes and prayers of liberty loving people everywhere march with you."

He was right then, of course, Mr. Speaker. But over seventy years later, liberty loving people everywhere continue to owe these heroes for their extraordinary service and their incredible stories of sacrifice and bravery on behalf of our country. That's why it is my privilege to enter their names into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD today.

The veterans on this Honor Flight from Oregon are as follows: Kenneth Brandt, Army; George Droz, Army; Charles Robertson, Army; George Schoppert, Army; William Evarts, Army Air Force; Alfred Kruckman, Army Air Force; August Evert, Navy; Ben Lemire, Navy; Otto Schaffer, Navy; Billy Baucum, U.S. Coast Guard.

Some of these brave men served on land in France, Germany, Austria, England, Normandy and throughout the European and Pacific Theatres. Some served at sea in the South Pacific and the Philippines, on patrol frigates and Navy vessels. Some served as air crewman and infantrymen. While each of their roles was different, their dedication to their country was the same.

These ten heroes join the over 150,000 veterans who have been honored through the Honor Flight Network of volunteers nationwide since 2005.

I would also like to recognize the four guardians traveling on this trip who have served our country: Terrie Evarts, Jerry Rozelle, Harley Keiley, and Candy Kelley.

I also want to thank and recognize the group leaders on this night, as well as the dedicated Board Members of Honor Flight of Eastern Oregon and the Bend Heroes Foundation, who worked so hard to make this trip happen.

Mr. Speaker, at the height of the Civil War in 1863, President Abraham Lincoln wrote, "Honor to the Soldier, and Sailor everywhere, who bravely bears his country's cause." Each of us in this chamber and in this nation should be humbled by the courage of these brave veterans who put themselves in harm's way for our country and way of life. As a nation, we can never fully repay the debt of gratitude owed to them for their honor, commitment, and sacrifice in defense of the freedoms we have today.

My colleagues, please join me in thanking these veterans and the volunteers of Honor Flight of Eastern Oregon for their exemplary dedication and service to this great country.

HONORING GEORGE ALTAMURA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 8, 2017

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor President and Founder George Altamura upon the 25th Anniversary of Hands Across the Valley, an outstanding annual event that benefits Napa County safety net food programs.

As a young man growing up in Buffalo, New York, Mr. Altamura dreamed of living in California. When he graduated from high school in 1949, he made his dream a reality by hitchhiking his way across the United States, working first as a carpenter's apprentice and eventually obtaining a general contractor's license. In 1952, he established Altamura Enterprises, a successful property development company. He has worked hard to help make Napa Valley a wonderful place to live.

Mr. Altamura founded Hands Across the Valley when he learned that hundreds of people in our community were going hungry every day. He and other leaders in our community decided to come together "to do something about the hunger in Napa Valley." They formed a committee to plan a fundraising event, not knowing how the community would respond. Over five hundred guests attended the inaugural event. Hands Across the Valley has become a popular annual event in our community, succeeding in raising well over two million dollars to benefit Napa Valley's safety net food programs.

Hands Across the Valley raises funds for the Napa Valley Food Bank, Meals on Wheels, the Salvation Army, and The Table, a local charity focused on providing nutritious meals to anyone that is hungry. In addition to providing much needed funds to these safety net services, Hands Across the Valley helps the Food Bank, Catholic Charities, The Table and American Canyon Family Resource Center provide holiday turkeys and food baskets each year.

Mr. Speaker, the Hands Across the Valley benefit and George Altamura have been helping our community organizations with their goal of creating a "community without hunger." Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor him here today.

RECOGNIZING RON CLAWSON FOR
RECEIVING A PERSONAL
ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FROM
THE HEALTHSOUTH REHABILITA-
TION HOSPITAL OF ALTOONA

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 8, 2017

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ron Clawson, one of the winners of the 24th annual Personal Achievement Award from the HealthSouth Rehabilitation Hospital of Altoona. This award is given to encourage and recognize those who have made an outstanding effort to deal with or overcome a disability. This year, Ron has earned that distinction.

Ron was at work atop a tanker car when it exploded in January 2017. He sustained sig-

nificant trauma and multiple injuries including nine rib fractures, multiple spinal fractures and burns all over his body. The accident dramatically changed his life, causing him to endure many trips for medical treatment including outpatient therapy three times a week, follow-up appointments with multiple doctors and a surgical procedure on his right shoulder. Yet, through all of these troubles, Ron, with the boundless support of his wife Diane and their four children, has approached his situation with strength and calm determination.

I am humbled to recognize the truly impressive recovery Ron has made. His steadfast perseverance in the face of such adversity is remarkable. As such, it is my pleasure to wish Ron the best as he continues to reclaim his health and life.

HONORING CITY OF CENTENNIAL'S
MAYOR CATHY NOON

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 8, 2017

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my gratitude to the City of Centennial's Mayor Cathy Noon as her final term as mayor comes to an end. Mayor Noon's extraordinary work and dedication to the City of Centennial has positively transformed the City of Centennial over her time in office. As Mayor of Centennial, her leadership has proved to be a key factor in many of the city's most successful programs and initiatives.

Mayor Cathy Noon has shown time and time again what a dedicated public servant can do to make a difference for her community. Mayor Noon was a leader in the process to draft the original home-rule charter for the city when it was established in 2001 and her service to the City of Centennial has truly extended from its conception to the present day. She has also taken a prominent role in furthering the interests of the entire metropolitan region through her service on numerous boards and commissions such as, the Metro Mayors Caucus, the C-470 Executive Committee and the Denver Regional Council of Governments.

Under Mayor Noon's leadership, projects such as the Intelligent Transportation System Master Plan and Go Centennial have helped the City of Centennial to grow and prosper beyond anyone's expectations. It is clear her tireless service to the people of Centennial has made this community a better place to live, work, and raise a family.

Mr. Speaker, as her final term of service to the citizens of the City of Centennial nears its end, I offer Mayor Cathy Noon my sincere appreciation for her many years of accomplished public service and I wish to extend my grateful thanks to her for her unyielding dedication to the people and the City of Centennial.

JOE AND MARTHA MCCAFFREY
HISTORIC TROLLEY BUILDING

HON. BEN RAY LUJÁN

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 8, 2017

Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to announce that the